



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
30 January 2024

ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Interview with Adur Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out background information on the Portfolio of the Adur Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within his portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Adur communities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee consider any representations from the Cabinet Member on the work within his Portfolio and other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in and question the Cabinet Member on this and recommend any suggested action or make appropriate comments to the Cabinet Member for his consideration.

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2023/24, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) have agreed to hold interviews with the Adur and Worthing Cabinet Members and question them on their priorities for 2023/24.
- 3.2 As part of its fact finding/investigative role, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the roles and responsibilities of the Adur Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Angus Dunn). It is part of the Scrutiny role to fact find/investigate in the form of questions and JOSC is asked to direct questions to the Cabinet Member on any issues involving the Cabinet Member and also issues relating to his portfolio.
- 3.3 The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress as described and can recommend action or make comments to the Cabinet Member for consideration.
- 3.4 The Cabinet Member was previously interviewed by JOSC at its meeting on 8 June 2023 - The minute extract (JOSC/12/23/24) which includes the detail of the previous discussion and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC 080623](#) Individual decisions made by the Cabinet Members can be found and accessed from the following link: [Individual Executive Member decisions](#) The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress as described.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Adur Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources has responsibility for the following:-
- Budgets (including the overall allocation of Revenue and Capital), external funding.
 - Capital programme.
 - Local taxation (benefit fraud (Adur) and appeals against decisions relating to National Non-Domestic Rate applications).
 - Treasury management, investments, loans, leasing and banking matters.
 - Property and asset management, facilities management, estates (including Southwick Square shops), property terriers, corporate property (not in other portfolios) and non-housing property repairs.
 - ICT (client side), telephony and Data Protection, Freedom of Information, information security and web team.

- Procurement, including contracts.
- Personnel and staffing (where Executive functions), including organisational development, occupational health and learning and development of staff.
- Other central support services.
- Internal Audit and audit fees.
- Digital transformation programme.

4.2 JOSC is requested to ask questions of the Cabinet Member based on his responsibilities outlined in paragraph 4.1 including any high level strategic issues relating to the Council and the Adur community.

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 JOSC is responsible for holding the Cabinet Members to account, reviewing their work and decisions and in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils' constitution, can request Cabinet Members to attend its meetings.

7.2 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

7.3 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

Background Papers:

Strategic Priorities for Adur District Council: 2022/23 Progress update report and New Priorities for 2023/24 - [Adur JSC Sub-Committee 27 September 2023](#)

Our Plan - A three year framework for Adur and Worthing Councils

[Our Plan](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. There are a number of issues contained within the Cabinet Member Portfolio which can impact on the overall economy of the area.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. The aims of the Cabinet Member Portfolio seek to achieve better social value in those particular areas.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

4. Governance

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. JOSOC is responsible for holding the Cabinet Members to account, reviewing their work and decisions and in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils' constitution, can request Cabinet Members to attend its meetings.